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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/766,728      | 01/27/2004  | George A. Austin     |                     | 3437             |

7590 03/24/2006  
GEORGE A. AUSTIN  
120 W. APRICOT AVE.  
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84103

EXAMINER

EDELL, JOSEPH F

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3636

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                               |                                   |  |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No.<br>10/766,728 | Applicant(s)<br>AUSTIN, GEORGE A. |  |
|                              | Examiner<br>Joseph F. Edell   | Art Unit<br>3636                  |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 23 January 2006 has been entered.

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: "its" (line 3) should read --the cable--. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,711,786 to Weiss in view of 6,220,659 B1 to McDowell et al.

Weiss discloses a bench that is basically the same as that recited in claim 8 except that the cable is not specified as a heat trace cable inlaid in the seat and backrest, as recited in the claim. See Figures 1-6 of Weiss for the teaching that the bench has a masonry composite seat 29 (see Fig. 5) and backrest 28 placed on upright supports 17, and an electric cable 43 connected to the backrest. McDowell et al. shows a bench similar to that of Weiss wherein the seat and backrest 11,14 (see Fig. 11) are heated by a heat trace cable 22c (Fig. 4) that is coiled and inlaid in the seat and backrest. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the bench of Weiss such that the cable is a heat trace cable inlaid in the seat and backrest, such as the bench disclosed in McDowell et al. One would have been motivated to make such a modification in view of the suggestion in McDowell et al. that the inlaid heat trace cable provides a rugged, durable heater for outdoor benches.

Although the cable of Weiss, as modified, is not specified as flat, modifying the shape of the cable would have been obvious at the time of Applicant's invention because the use of preferred shapes and materials discovered by routine experimentation are ordinarily within the skill of the art. Further, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the shape of the cable since the Applicant has not disclosed that having the specific shape solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the cable would perform equally well with an well known shape used in the art.

***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to canceled claims 5-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Please note that 37 CFR 1.121(c) requires a complete listing of all claims, even those claims that have been previously canceled.

***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph F. Edell whose telephone number is (571) 272-6858. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5:00pm.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Joe Edell  
March 22, 2006